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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

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PRESS RELEASE

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LOUISIANA ASSISTS WITH ORLEANS PARISH MARSH FIRE

Baton Rouge, LA (August 29, 2011) – State agencies are helping to respond to a marsh fire located in a remote area in Orleans Parish. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is in contact with the New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness and the National Weather Service which is monitoring wind direction. GOHSEP is also coordinating efforts with other state agencies to ensure the safety of citizens.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

- A mobile air quality lab is now located in New Orleans near the marsh burn
- After testing the air quality, DEQ has put out an "Action Day" advisory meaning the air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH):

- DHH medical professionals and toxicologists are advising local government officials and first responders on the situation.
- DHH is monitoring its surveillance of local hospitals to provide insight into health trends and issues that may arise among the general populations related to the marsh fires.
- DHH is providing advisories to the general public on how to protect themselves, especially those with respiratory conditions.
- Individuals with asthma, allergies, and other respiratory conditions should avoid prolonged outdoor exposure, continue to follow their treatment plans as determined by their health care providers, be certain their prescriptions are filled and have their medications with them.
- Individuals who become symptomatic should seek medical advice from their health care provider.
- Individuals bothered by the smell should go indoors to minimize exposure.
- Individuals are advised to run their air conditioners or central air conditioning systems if

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they have one. If the air conditioner provides a fresh air option, keep the fresh-air intake closed and recirculate indoor air. Make sure that the filter is clean enough to allow good air flow indoors. Vehicle air conditioning systems should also be set to recirculate inside air.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF):

- LDAF fly-overs indicate that the fire is 100 percent contained because the area is surrounded by water on all four sides. It is estimated that approximately 1300 acres have burned to date, and there are 1,000 acres remaining in this water-locked area.
- LDAF will conduct a more detailed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) reconnaissance flight within the next 24 hours and provide estimates for when the fire may burn itself out.

Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD):

- DOTD is prepared to display “Limited Visibility” warnings on message boards located along the interstate should smoke pose a problem.

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